Appellate order by Central Indirect Tax Board

†4323. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appellate order issued vide F. No. C-16012/14/2004-Ad-V/698 dated 13th February, 2007 by the Central Indirect Tax Board is misleading to the spirit of consultation provided by UPSC;

(b) whether Part 8 of appellate order issued by Central Indirect Tax Board is in sharp contrast to the spirit of consultation provided by UPSC and rules 27(2)(A), 27(2)(C) (ii) and 29(A) of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965; and

(c) if so, its justification and solution and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Vacant posts in Central Government Departments

4324. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in different departments of the Central Government up to 31st January, 2007 including Public Sector Units;

(b) how many of them have been vacant for more than three years;

(c) the division of these vacant posts on the basis of reasons for vacancies; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to fill in these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) While information on vacant posts in the Public Sector Units is not collected by the Ministry of Finance, as per the latest information available, the number of posts lying vacant in different departments of the Central Government as on 01/03/2005 is approximately 4.71 lakhs. All Ministries/Departments are required to review their vacancies regularly and take necessary steps in the light of such reviews. Information on nature and duration of vacancies with reasons thereof will therefore be available with individual Ministries/Departments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Direct recruitment vacancies in different Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are regulated in terms of the Annual Direct Recruitment Plan scheme of the Department of the Personnel and Training. All Ministries/ Departments are required to fill up the vacancies as per the extant guidelines of the scheme.

Charging of heavy security amount in open tenders

4325. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to asking of heavy security amount to be deposited/ Earnest Money Deposit in the open tenders, only limited parties are taking part in the tenders depriving fair competition;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to charge only nominal security/ EMD amount to encourage more competition;

(c) whether stationery and other items have been purchased more in quantity under rules 145 and 146, GFRs-2005 than on open tender; and

(d) whether his Ministry did not compare the rates obtaining in Kendriya Bhandar before purchasing the stationery items from the other sources and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2005 make it imperative on the procuring Ministries/Departments to bring efficiency, economy and transparency in public procurement for fair and equitable treatment of suppliers and promotion of competition in public procurement. Rule 137 lays down the various yardsticks to be followed by the procuring Ministries/Departments to ensure these aspects. As per GFRs-2005, to safeguard against a bidder's withdrawing or altering its bid during the bid validity period in the case of advertised or limited tender inquiry, Earnest Money is to be obtained from the bidders other than the exempted categories, ranging between 2% to 5% of the estimated value of the goods to be procured. The exact amount of Earnest Money Deposit is to be determined by the concerned Administrative Ministry/ Department and to be indicated in the bidding documents.

(c) and (d) Stationery and other items are purchased by different Ministries and Departments as per the powers delegated under 'Delegation of Financial Powers Rules'. No centralized data regarding the purchases